

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
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RELEASE DATE

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Immediate

The Metropolitan Community Church's Rap Sessions will be moved from Thursdays to Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The change will be effective December 3rd with the topic, "Gays in the Workplace." The church has announced that the other sessions in December will be:

Dec. 10th ... "Monogamy vs. Open Relationships"

Dec. 17th ... "Role Playing: Butch-Fem, Leather, etc"

For more information please call 476-9142.

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St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the Metropolitan Community Church, 4500 Bit and Spur Road, will hold a joint Christmas Eve worship service, December 24th at 8:30 p.m. The Rev. Marge Ragona of MCC will preach and she and the Lutheran Pastor, Rev. Dani D'Aunay will jointly serve communion. Everyone is welcome.

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The AIDS Buddy System Training Program will have an all-day training session in home nursing on December 13th and January 10th at the American Red Cross building at the corner of Broad and Dauphin Street. Participants must be pre-registered for both sessions. The cost, according to the Red Cross, is \$15.00 for the cost of the textbook (the instruction is free). Lunch will be provided by the Metropolitan Community Church, but the Red Cross provides the instructors.

On January 19th, the Buddy System will hold a "Death and Dying" training session for people available to help persons with AIDs or other life-threatening illness cope with the psychological demands of terminal illness. The training programs are held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 4500 Bit and Spur Road.

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"Anyone interested in joining the Buddy Training Program can still do so," said John P., media director for the church. "The only session the persons have missed to date are the introductory session and one on 'Crisis Intervention'," John said. "The response to the training programs has been good. In light of the health crisis being experienced in many communities in this country, as well as some in the rest of the world, it is none too soon for gay and lesbian people to be prepared to be of help. I am glad the MCC and the other organizations (like Mobile Aids Fund), have had the good response that has been shown.

For more information, please call 476-9142.

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The highlight of the Metropolitan Community Church's celebration of Christmas will be the second annual "Twelve Days of Christmas" which unofficially begins with caroling in the downtown section of Mobile on Dec.22nd, and then officially begins with an open house at the MCC pastor's home. (Call for location.) The pot-luck buffet will begin at 2 p.m. Christmas Day, Dec.25th.

For twelve days thereafter, there will be a party daily (or nightly) at MCC member's and friend's homes. The parties will conclude on January 6th, traditionally celebrated as Little Christmas or King's Day along the Gulf Coast.

"This celebration of the 12 days is simply a good way for the various members who open their homes to show their gratitude for the fellowship they have experienced with MCC and to invite others to share in the Christian spirit of giving," said Rev. Ragona, pastor of the local MCC.

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Thirty-three persons celebrated the second annual beginning of the New Church Year Party that was held on November 8th. The pot luck buffet was a

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gathering of MCC members and their friends recognizing the progress the church has made in the past 20 months that it has been in Mobile.

"The beginning of the church year with Advent is a good time for a church to bring people together to celebrate in an atmosphere of warm and friendship," said the member of the board to whom we talked. "When we fellowship, we can feel the true Christian spirit -- and like an old friend said, 'We don't keep the faith, we give it away.' MCC members enjoy having fun together and want others to share that spirit."

